

Message Text

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PAGE 01 RIO DE 03642 152035Z
ACTION ARA-14

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 ICAE-00
INRE-00 SS-15 PA-02 AGR-01 CIAE-00 COME-00 EB-08
INR-10 LAB-04 NSAE-00 SP-02 STR-07 TRSE-00 FRB-01
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O R 151604Z AUG 78
FM AMCONSUL RIO DE JANEIRO
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 6583
INFO AMEMBASSY BRASILIA
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY MEXICO
AMEMBASSY SAN JOSE
AMEMBASSY SAN SALVADOR
AMEMBASSY TEGUCIGALPA
AMEMBASSY GUATEMALA
AMEMBASSY MANAGUA
AMEMBASSY SANTO DOMINGO
AMEMBASSY PANAMA
AMEMBASSY LIMA
AMEMBASSY BOGOTA
AMEMBASSY CARACAS
AMCONSUL SAO PAULO

UNCLAS RIO DE JANEIRO 3642

DEPT.PASS MCCONNELL FAS/USDA/WASHDC

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: EAGR, BR
SUBJECT: FREEZE IN COFFEE PRODUCING AREA OF PARANA

1. RIO AND SAO PAULO NEWSPAPERS OF AUGUST 15 REPORT UNDER
LARGE HEADLINES OCCURENCE OF FREEZING TEMPERATURE IN CERTAIN
COFFEE PRODUCING AREAS IN THE STATE OF PARANA ON THE NIGHT
ON AUGUST 13/14. THE PRESS REPORTS AN OFFICIAL PRESS
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RELEASE FROM THE PARANA STATE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
STATING THAT 200 MILLION COFFEE TREES IN PARANA ARE
ESTIMATED TO HAVE BEEN AFFECTED BY A STRONG FROST ON
THE NIGHT OF AUGUST 13/14. TOTAL COFFEE TREE POPULATION
IN PARANA IS CURRENTLY ESTIMATED AT 700 MILLION TREES.
THE STATE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE RECOGNIZES, HOWEVER,
THAT IT IS YET TOO EARLY TO EVALUATE THE FULL EXTENT OF

THIS FROST DAMAGE ON COFFEE TREES.

2. A SPECIAL ISSUE FROM THE STATE OF PARANA WEATHER FORECAST INSTITUTE FORESEES FURTHER FROST OCCURENCES OVER THE ENTIRE STATE OF PARANA DURING THE NIGHT OF AUGUST 14/15.

3. A SURVEY CARRIED OUT BY THE BRAZILIAN COFFEE INSTITUTE (IBC) IN MARINGA REPORTED THAT THE COFFEE PRODUCING AREAS MOST AFFECTED BY THE AUGUST 13/14 FROST ARE UMUARAMA, CASCABEL, GUAIRA, GOIORE, PEROLA, CIANORTE, MATELANDIA AND TUNEIRAS DO OESTE. IBC HAS ALSO REPORTED PARTIAL DAMAGE TO 300 MILLION COFFEE TREES IN THE MARINGA AREA CAUSED BY COLD WINDS.

4. IN RIO DE JANEIRO THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY AND COMMERCE UNDER WHOSE JURISDICTION THE IBC FALLS SAID THAT THE AUGUST 13/14 FREEZE WAS NOT INTENSIVE AND THAT ITS EFFECTS ON COFFEE TREES ARE SUPERFICIAL.

5. THE PRESIDENT OF IBC, HOWEVER, EXPRESSED TO THE PRESS HIS GREAT CONCERN ABOUT THE FREEZE RISKS EXPECTED ON THE NIGHT OF AUGUST 14/15 ON COFFEE TREES. SHOULD A SERIOUS FREEZE OCCUR IBC WILL IMMEDIATELY STOP REGISTRATION OF ALL COFFEE SALES FOR EXPORT UNTIL THE ENTIRE DAMAGE SITUATION IS SURVEYED.

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